



BLUE-GREEN ALGAL BLOOM WEEKLY UPDATE

REPORTING MAY 15 - MAY 21, 2020

SUMMARY

There were 33 reported algal bloom site visits in the past seven days (5/15-5/22), with 33 samples collected. Algal bloom conditions were observed by the samplers at 16 sites.

Satellite imagery from 5/21 shows light to moderate bloom potential on approximately 25% of Lake Okeechobee, while the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and estuaries show no observable bloom activity. Satellite imagery from 5/21 for the St. Johns River is partially obscured by cloud cover but shows reduced bloom potential in Lake George. Light to moderate bloom potential was observed on the mainstem of the St. Johns River from Deep Creek to Green Cove Springs and in Doctors Lake. Please keep in mind that bloom potential is subject to change due to rapidly changing environmental conditions or satellite inconsistencies (i.e., wind, rain, temperature or stage).

On 5/18, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) staff sampled the C43 Canal upstream of the S77 and S78 structures and at on Lake Okeechobee at the S308C structure. All three samples were dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa*. Only trace levels (0.26, 0.41 and 0.48 parts per billion, respectively) of total microcystins were detected in the samples.

On 5/18, DEP staff collected samples from Lake Jennie Jewel (SE Corner). There was no dominant algal taxon and no cyanotoxins were detected.

On 5/19, SFWMD staff collected samples on the L29 Canal (S12D) and on the C44 Canal (downstream of the S153 structure). Both samples were dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa*. The L29 Canal sample had trace levels (0.89 parts per billion) of total microcystin, and the C44 Canal sample had 2.1 parts per billion total microcystin.

On 5/20, the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) collected a sample from Lake Washington – Center. These results are pending.

On 5/20, SFWMD staff performed their routine Lake Okeechobee monitoring. Algal bloom conditions were observed at L001, NCENTER, POLESOUT2 and POLESOUT1. Sites L001, POLESOUT1 and POLESOUT2 were dominated by *Microcystis aeruginosa*, while NCENTER did not have a dominant algal taxon. Total microcystins for L001, NCENTER, POLESOUT2 and POLESOUT1 were non-detect, trace (0.39 parts per billion), non-detect, and trace (0.63 parts per billion), respectively. No bloom conditions were observed at POLESOUT3, KISSRO.0, LZ2, NES191, NES135, EASTSHORE, L004, L008, L005 or KBARSE. Results for these locations are pending.

On 5/21, SFWMD staff observed bloom conditions at PELBAY3, L006, L007, LZ30, PALMOUT2 and LZ40. Sample results for these locations are pending. No algal bloom conditions were observed at POLES3S, LZ30, PALMOUT, PALMOUT1, PALMOUT3 or CLV10A. Results for these locations are still pending.

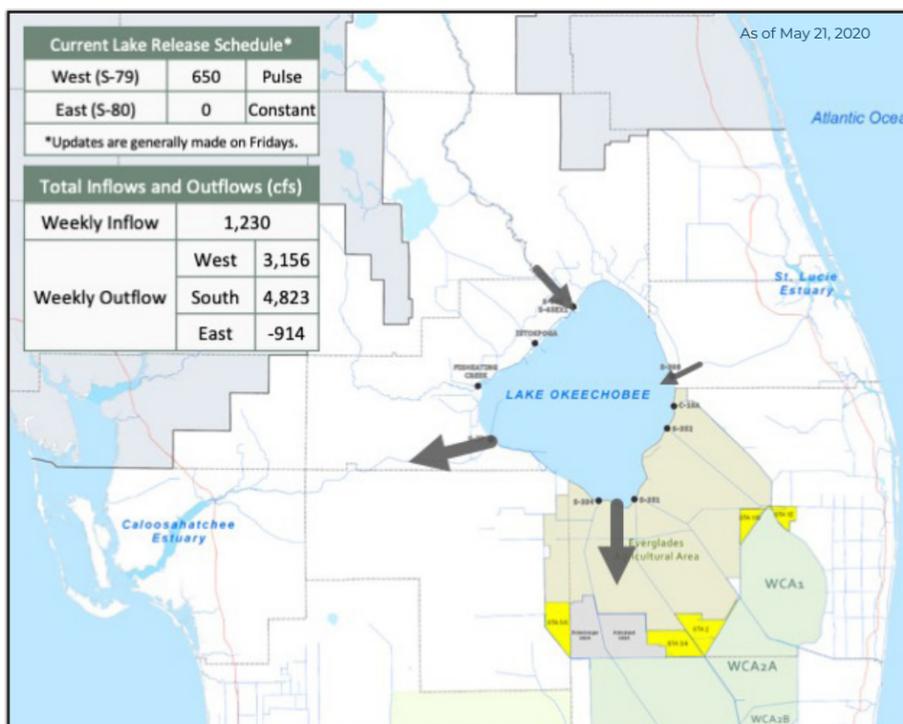
Samples collected late last week by the SJRWMD were not available in time for last week's summary. Those results are available now.

On 5/13, SJRWMD collected a sample from Lake Grandin (SE Lobe), Lake George - Center (LEO) and Crescent Lake - Mouth of Dunn's Creek (CRESLM). The Lake Grandin sample was dominated by *Anabaena sp* and no cyanotoxins were detected. The Lake George Center and Crescent samples were dominated by *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii*. No cyanotoxins were detected in any of these samples.

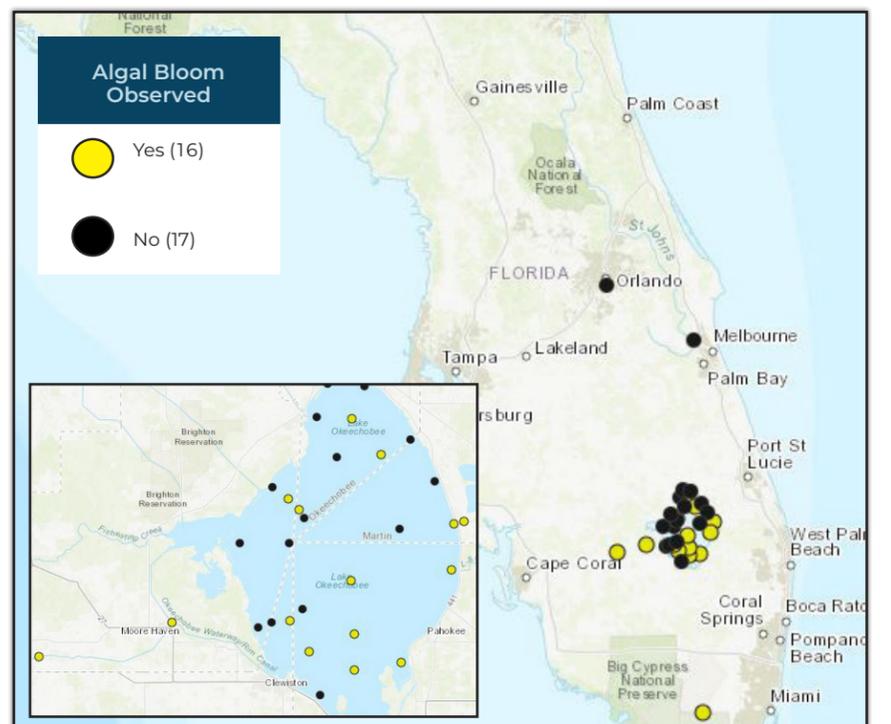
On 5/14, SJRWMD collected samples from the St. Johns River at stations MP72, DTL and Shands Bridge. There was no dominant algal taxon or detectable cyanotoxins in any of these samples.

This is a high-level summary of the sampling events for the reported week. For all field visit and analytical result details, please refer the complete algal bloom map with data table by clicking the "Field and Lab Details" Quick Link from the Algal Bloom Dashboard. Different types of blue-green algal bloom species can look different and have different impacts. However, regardless of species, many types of blue-green algae can produce toxins that can make you or your pets sick if swallowed or possibly cause skin and/or eye irritation due to contact. We advise to stay out of water where algae is visibly present as specks, mats or water is discolored pea-green, blue-green or brownish-red. Additionally, pets or livestock should not come into contact with the algal bloom-impacted water, or the algal bloom material or fish on the shoreline.

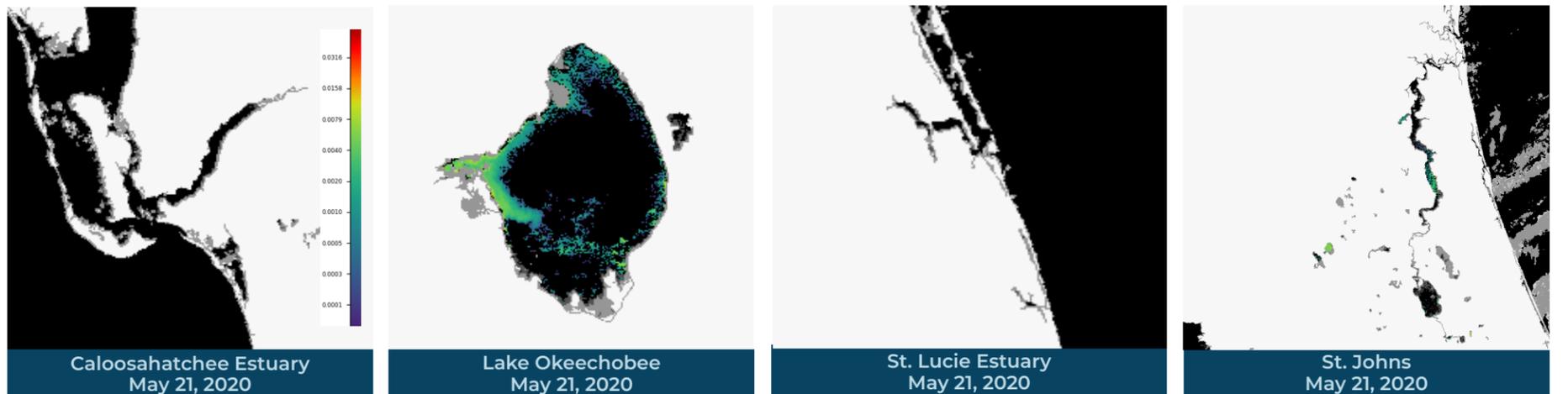
LAKE OKEECHOBEE OUTFLOWS



SITE VISITS FOR BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



Satellite Imagery provided by NOAA - Images are impacted by cloud-cover



REPORTS FROM HOTLINE



REPORT PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

HUMAN ILLNESS

Florida Poison Control Centers can be reached 24/7 at 800-222-1222 (DOH provides grant funding to the Florida Poison Control Centers)

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

CONTACT DOH
(DOH county office)
FloridaHealth.gov/all-county-locations.html

REPORT ALGAL BLOOMS

SALTWATER BLOOM

- Observe stranded wildlife or a fish kill
- Information about red tide and other saltwater algal blooms

CONTACT FWC
800-636-0511 (fish kills)
888-404-3922 (wildlife Alert)
MyFWC.com/RedTide

FRESHWATER BLOOM

- Observe an algal bloom in a lake or freshwater river
- Information about blue-green algal blooms

CONTACT DEP
855-305-3903 (to report freshwater blooms)
FloridaDEP.gov/AlgalBloom